

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed September 8, 2006. Claims 4, 11, 14, 21, and 22 have been amended. Claims 1, 4-11, and 14-24 are presently pending. No new matter has been added.

§102 and §103 Rejections

Claims 1, 4-11, and 14-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 00/04707 to Ellis et al. ("Ellis"). The Applicant traverses these rejections.

Each of independent claims 1, 11, and 21 recites a plurality of user objects that include attributes and data related to respective users. Ellis does not teach or suggest this arrangement. In particular, the "named room assignments, each of which has their own profile or settings" identified in the Office Action (p. 3) corresponds to profiles/settings related to individual items of television equipment, not to particular users. Although the television equipment may be identified by a user's name (e.g., parent's room or children's room) the profile in Ellis for that television equipment is the same regardless of the actual user. For example, if a parent uses the television in the children's room the profile for that television is the same as if the children were using that television. The profiles/settings in this particular example are related to the television in the children's room, not a profile for the children themselves. In other words, the profiles/settings are equipment-specific, not user-specific. Accordingly, these profiles/settings are not user objects as recited in the claims because the profiles/settings are not associated with respective users of the access devices. Claims 11 and 21 also recite access means objects and client system objects, respectively, to further highlight this distinction.

Furthermore, there is no teaching in Ellis of multiple user objects. Ellis does disclose that program guide settings can be shared with another device using a user password. (Ellis, [0094]), but there is no indication that there is more than one such user password per household.

Therefore, Ellis does not teach or suggest every element of the claims. For at least these reasons, claims 1, 11, and 21, as well as the remainder of the claims which depend therefrom, are

patentable over Ellis. The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

The dependent claims include additional patentable features. For example, claims 5, 15, and 24 are directed to providing the user objects to a new client system or access means without activity of a user. Ellis does not describe the set-up process for a new device, although a general set-up process is described and is performed manually (i.e., requiring activity by the user). Each of the portions of Ellis cited by the Office Action to reject these claims discusses manual set-up. (Page 5, lines 13-25 - manual adjustment of favorite and reminder settings; page 24, lines 7-32 - manual adjustment of program guide setting; page 28, lines 15-34 through page 29, lines 1-5 - manual adjustment of parental control settings; and page 34, lines 1-14 - manual selection of preference profile.) Such a set-up is not performed "without activity of a user" as recited in the claims. Therefore, Ellis does not teach or suggest every element of these claims. For at least these additional reasons, claims 5, 15, and 24 are patentable over Ellis. The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Claims 4, 14, and 22 each recite providing the user objects to every client system/access means without further activity of the user and without the user selecting the plurality of client systems/access means to provide the change. Ellis does not teach or suggest this arrangement. Instead, Ellis teaches that a user can send configuration changes to any, or all, attached devices, but only by selecting those devices when making the change. Therefore, Ellis does not teach or suggest every element of these claims. For at least these additional reasons, claims 4, 14, and 22 are patentable over Ellis. The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Claims 9, 10, 19, 20, and 23 recite a revision history or a ticket number associated with each configuration change in the revision history. Ellis does not teach a revision history or a ticket number as recited in the claims. A revision history is a list, file, or some other stored description of the revisions. Ellis does not teach or suggest making such a history. Ellis does not teach or suggest any memory or other storage device where past changes to the settings are recorded.

Moreover, a revision history is not an inherent feature of Ellis. Consistent with the explicit disclosure of Ellis, changes to settings in the system of Ellis could be made without making any recording of a revision history. In this scenario only the current configuration of the settings is maintained or recorded at any give time. Past configurations are not recorded.

With respect to the ticket number, the Office Action takes the position that a password number that allows a user to recall program guide settings on other television equipment corresponds to the ticket number. The password number does not meet requirements for a ticket number as recited in the claims because the password number has nothing to do with configuration changes. It merely allows a user to obtain the current program guide settings. In contrast, the claims recite that a ticket number is associated with each configuration change that is included in the revision history. As indicated above, Ellis does not teach or suggest a revision history, much less a ticket number associated with configuration changes in the revision history.

Therefore, Ellis does not teach or suggest every element of these claims. For at least these additional reasons, claims 9, 10, 19, 20, and 23 are patentable over Ellis. The Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, the Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact the Applicant's representative, Bruce Black, by telephone to discuss the matter.

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Respectfully submitted,

By K. S. Black
Bruce E. Black

Bruce E. Black

Registration No.: 41,622

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 5257

New York, New York 10150-5257

(206) 262-8900

(212) 527-7701 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant